AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.　(currently amended): A centralized medical image management system comprising:

client terminals installed in medical facilities and an image database server, the client terminals having an ability of transmission and reception of sets of medical image data together with accompanying information regarding the sets of medical image data via a network; and

the image database server having functions of receiving the sets of medical image data and accompanying information regarding thereto, both of which are transmitted from the client terminals via the network, storing therein the received sets of medical image data and the accompanying information that have been received, searching for a desired one of the sets of medical image data stored therein by using the accompanying information, and transmitting the set of medical image data, wherein,

when a desired search condition is inputted from any one of the client terminals and is transmitted to the image database server, the image database server searches for the accompanying information using the desired search condition received by the image database server, if the accompanying information is successfully found, then retrieves the medical image data regarding the accompanying information, and transmits the retrieved medical image data to the relevant client terminal.

<u>wherein, the accompanying information includes at least one of facility information and an input modality.</u>

2.   (original): A centralized medical image management system as defined in Claim 1, the image database server comparing a password input from any one of the client terminals with a password stored in advance, searching for the set of medical image data corresponding to the accompanying information input as the search condition from the client terminal if the passwords match up, and transmitting the set of medical image data to the client terminal.

3.   (currently amended): A centralized medical image management system as defined in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the accompanying information <u>further</u> includes at least one of items comprising a patient specification information, a date of photographing, and a photographing menu, ~~an input modality and a facility information~~.

4.   (currently amended): A centralized medical image management system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the accompanying information includes a combination of <u>the</u> facility information and patient specification information.

5.   (currently amended): A centralized medical image management system as defined in Claim 2, wherein the accompanying information includes a combination of <u>the</u> facility information and patient specification information.

6.   (original): A centralized medical image management system as defined in Claim 3, wherein the accompanying information includes a combination of the facility information and the patient specification information.

7.   (currently amended): A centralized medical image management system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the accompanying information further includes patient specification information encrypted by the medical facilities.

8.   (currently amended): A centralized medical image management system as defined in Claim 2, wherein the accompanying information further includes patient specification information encrypted by the medical facilities.

9.   (original): A centralized medical image management system as defined in Claim 3, wherein the patient specification information is encrypted by the medical facilities.

10.   (original): A centralized medical image management system as defined in Claim 4, wherein the patient specification information is encrypted by the medical facilities.

11.   (previously presented): The image database server used in the centralized medical image management system defined in Claim 1, the image database server having the functions of receiving the sets of medical image data together with the accompanying information transmitted from the client terminals via the network, storing the sets of medical image data and the accompanying information, searching for the desired one of the sets of medical image data stored therein by using the accompanying information, and transmitting the set of medical image data.

12.   (original): The image database server as defined in Claim 11, further having functions of receiving a password, comparing the password with a password stored therein in advance, and searching for the desired one of the sets of medical image data stored therein by using the accompanying information if the passwords match up.

13.   (original): The client terminal used in the centralized medical image management

system defined in Claim 1, the client terminal comprising:

    data transmission means for transmitting the sets of the medical image data and the

accompanying information regarding the sets of medical image data to the image database server

via the public communications network;

    search condition transmission means for transmitting the search condition using the

accompanying information used for searching for the desired one of the sets of the medical

image data stored in the image database server; and

    image data reception means for receiving the set of the medical image data corresponding

to the search condition.

14.   (original): The client terminal as defined in Claim 13, further comprising

password transmission means for transmitting a password to the image database server.

15.   (currently amended): A computer-readable recording medium storing a program

to cause a computer to execute the procedures of:

    transmitting sets of medical image data together with accompanying information

regarding the sets of the medical image data to an image database server via a network;

    transmitting a search condition using the accompanying information used for searching

for a desired one of the sets of the medical image data stored in the image database server; and

    receiving the set of the medical image data corresponding to the search condition,

wherein the accompanying information includes at least one of facility information and

an input modality.

16.   (currently amended):   A centralized medical image management method comprising the steps of:

installing, in medical facilities, client terminals having an ability of transmission and reception of sets of medical image data together with accompanying information regarding the sets of the medical image data via a network;

transmitting the sets of medical image data and the accompanying information via the network from the client terminals to an image database server installed separately from the medical facilities;

storing the received sets of medical image data and the accompanying information in the image database server;

inputting a desired search condition from any one of the client terminals and transmitting the desired search condition to the image database server;

searching for the accompanying information using the desired search condition received by the image database server;

if the accompanying information is successfully found, retrieving the medical image data regarding the accompanying information and transmitting the retrieved medical image data to the relevant client terminal,

wherein the accompanying information includes at least one of facility information and an input modality.

17.   (previously presented):   A centralized medical image management system according to claim 3 wherein said photographing menu comprises:

a photographed body information; and

a photographing method information.

18.   (currently amended): A centralized medical image management system according to claim 3̶1, wherein said input modality comprises at least one of :

a radiography apparatus;

a CT apparatus; and

an MR apparatus.

19.   (previously presented): A centralized medical image management system according to claim 2, wherein a user inputs a password onto an input device on said client terminal, wherein said client terminal transmits said password to said image database server.

20.   (previously presented): A centralized medical image management system according to claim 2, wherein said password comprises an account password which is used in order to pay a predetermined charge for storing and searching of the image data.

21.   (previously presented): A centralized medical image management system according to claim 1, wherein said accompanying information is directly attached to said image data.

22.   (currently amended): A centralized medical image management system as defined in claim 1, wherein the portion of the accompanying information for the search condition further includes a patient specification information, and at least one of a date of photographing, and a photographing menu, an input modality and/or a facility information.

23.   (currently amended): A centralized medical image management system as defined in claim 1, wherein the accompanying information further includes a patient specification information, a date of photographing, and a photographing menu, an input modality and a facility information.

24.   (previously presented): A centralized medical image management system as defined in claim 1, wherein the medical image data and the accompanying information are managed as two separate files by using a common management number.

25.   (previously presented): A centralized medical image management system as defined in claim 2, wherein after a signal of a data search processing selection is transmitted from the client terminal to the image database server, the image database server transmits a password input screen to the client terminal and displays the screen on the client terminal.

26.   (currently amended): A centralized medical image management system according to claim 1, wherein a user enters parameters into a search field in order to obtain at least one of a date of photographing, a photographing menu, an the input modality and a the facility information.

27. (previously presented): The centralized medical image management system according to claim 1, wherein said medical image data comprises a photographed medical image.